

## REMARKS

Claims 1 through 26 remain pending in the present application.

### 102 Rejections

In paragraph 4, the present Office Action indicates that Claims 1 -26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,028,848 by Bhatia et al. (referred to herein after as "Bhatia"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 recites, "A method for performing device assigning functionality in intelligent hardware, said method comprising:

receiving a network access request from an electronic device  
communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware;

transmitting a device address request to a network server  
communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware;

receiving a first device address from said network server  
communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware; and

assigning a second device address to said electronic device  
communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware;

wherein said intelligent hardware is wall-mountable and comprises a user-accessible surface such that a user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware."

Applicants respectfully submit that Bhatia does not teach or suggest "receiving a first device address from said network server communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware; and assigning a second device address to said electronic device communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware," (emphasis added) as recited by Claim 1.

For example, Bhatia teaches at Col. 4 lines 56-58,  
the LAN model will detect the Ethernet address of that workstation  
through packets transmitted by the workstation, determine the IP address  
of that work station....

Further, Bhatia teaches at Col. 12 lines 24-30,

the LAN model, in essence, will translate the source IP address in each of  
these packets from the private IP address into the appropriate public  
dynamic IP address of the associated workstation, substitute the  
translated IP address for the private IP address in each such packet, and  
then route that packet accordingly to the proper remote network.

Note, Bhatia's modem detects the Ethernet address of a workstation,  
translates the source IP address into public dynamic IP addresses, substitutes  
the translated IP address for the private IP addresses, and so on. Therefore  
Bhatia does not teach or disclose "receiving a first device address from said  
network server communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware; and  
assigning a second device address to said electronic device communicatively  
coupled to said intelligent hardware," (emphasis added) as recited by Claim 1.

Further, Bhatia does not teach or disclose "wherein said intelligent  
hardware is wall-mountable and comprises a user-accessible surface such that a  
user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware," as recited by Claim 1.  
The Rejection states in the first paragraph of page 9, "It is the position of the  
examiner that the issue of distance is not in the claims. The issue is whether or  
not this model device can be wall-mounted. The answer is yes. Further, the  
analog line interface of fig 3 gives the user direct access to the device {see  
rejection of claims 1, 8, 15, and 21 above}."

Referring now to the Rejection of Claim 1 with regards to "wherein said  
intelligent hardware is wall-mountable and comprises a user-accessible surface  
such that a user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware" the  
Rejection refers to "fig. 3, items 350, 330." However, items 350 and 330 do not

teach or disclose “wherein said intelligent hardware is wall-mountable and comprises a user-accessible surface such that a user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware” as the Rejection states. For example, Bhatia teaches at Col. 14, lines 18-19, “ISDN router 305 contains ISDN interface 310, central processing unit (CPU) 330; analog line interfaces 350...” note a CPU and analog line interfaces does not imply that an “...intelligent hardware is wall-mountable” let alone “wherein said intelligent hardware is wall-mountable and comprises a user-accessible surface such that a user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware.”

Therefore it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is patentable for at least the foregoing reasons. Further, Claims 2-7 which depend on Claim 1 should be patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 1 should be patentable.

Independent Claims 8, 15, and 21 also recite limitations with regards to “wall mountable” and “user-accessible surface,” therefore Independent Claims 8, 15, and 21 should also be patentable. Independent Claim 15 recites a limitation “retrieving a first device address for said intelligent device from a network server of said network and for assigning a second device address to said electronic device” (emphasis added) which should make Independent Claim 14 patentable for similar reasons that “receiving a first device address from said network server communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware” (emphasis added) makes Claim 1 patentable.


Further, Claims 9-14, Claims 16-20, and Claims 22-26 which depend respectively on Independent Claims 8, 15, and 21 should be patentable for at least the reasons that Independent Claims 8, 15, and 21 should be patentable.

## Conclusion

In light of the above-listed amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the remaining Claims. The examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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